GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1371
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
RAINFED AREAS
CHARANJIT SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any research strategies for rainfed areas for effective involvement of Panchayat Raj Institutions to increase the productivity of dryland from the present level per hectare to meet the challenges of food and fodder requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been conductingresearch and frontline extension activities through Central Research institute for DrylandAgriculture, Hyderabad and All India Coordinated Research Project on DrylandAgriculture (24 cooperating centres), besides several other institutes and ad-hoc research projects. These institutes have been able to develop appropriate strategies for moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, selection of appropriate crop and varieties, improved agronomic management practices, alternative land use systems, including agro forestry and arid horticulture, suitable implements for dryland agriculture, livestock management under rainfed situations, watershed management and socio economic and policy issues for enhancing the productivity under rainfed areas. These technologies and improved practices are being transferred through Operational Research Projects, demonstrations, capacity building programmesand publication of suitable literature in print and electronic media. Most of these activities are undertaken through involvement of the State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions for effective and quicker transfer of the technologies. All these research and extension activities have resulted in significant improvement in the production and productivity of the rainfed crops in different parts of the country.